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a lead plate connected to said electrode assembly and said external case at said projection.

³ ~~17~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~², wherein said external case has a cylindrical shape, and said projection is located at the center of the bottom of said external case.

⁴ ~~18~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~17~~³, wherein said electrode assembly comprises a spiral electrode assembly.

⁵ ~~19~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~18~~⁴, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said electrode assembly is elliptical.

⁶ ~~20~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~19~~⁵, wherein said electrode assembly comprises a spiral electrode assembly.

⁷ ~~21~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~20~~⁶, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said external case is circular.

⁸ ~~22~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~21~~⁷, wherein said projection is located on a side-wall of said external case.

⁹ ~~23~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~22~~⁸, wherein the cross-sectional shape of said external case is rectangular.

¹⁰ ~~24~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~23~~⁹;
wherein said electrode assembly comprises a positive electrode plate, a negative electrode plate, and a separator; and

wherein said positive electrode plate is separated from said negative electrode plate by said separator.

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~~25~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~24~~¹⁰;
wherein said electrode assembly comprises a plurality of stacked electrode units;
wherein each electrode unit in said plurality of stacked electrode units is separated from
adjacent electrode units by a separator;
wherein each electrode unit comprises a positive electrode plate, a negative electrode plate,
and a separator; and
wherein said positive electrode plate is separated from said negative electrode plate by said
separator.

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12
~~26~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~¹², wherein a cross-sectional shape of said external
case is elliptical.

13
~~27~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~¹², wherein said projection is curved.

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~~28~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~¹², wherein said projection has a conical shape.

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~~29~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~¹², wherein said lead plate comprises a flexible
portion.

16
~~30~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~29~~¹⁵, wherein said flexible portion is capable of flexing
towards said projection.

17
~~31~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~29~~¹⁵, wherein:
a cross-sectional shape of said external case is circular;
wherein said lead plate is disk shaped and the area of said lead plate is smaller than the cross-
sectional area of the inside of said external case; and
wherein said flexible portion is disposed at a center of said lead plate.

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~~32~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~31~~¹⁷, wherein:
said lead plate further comprises holes;
wherein each hole has projection formed on its periphery; and

wherein said projections are connected to the electrode assembly.

19
33. (New) A battery as recited in claim 29, wherein said lead plate is welded to said external case at said flexible portion.

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34. (New) A battery as recited in claim 16, further comprising an anti-corrosive coating, wherein said anti-corrosive coating is disposed on an outside surface of said external case.

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35. (New) A battery as recited in claim 34, wherein said anti-corrosive coating is conductive.